

146. Story about Three Servants (Matthew 25:14-30)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given us many gifts, especially new life in Jesus Christ. Please help us to live in courage and share Your gifts with other people. Then Your kingdom can grow. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Matthew 25:14-15. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like this. A man was leaving on a long trip. He called his slaves to come. He gave them everything for them to take care of. He gave five bags of money to one slave. He gave two bags of money to another slave. He gave one bag of money to another slave. Depending on each slave's ability, the master gave different amounts of money. Then he left on his trip.

- Why did the master give different amounts of money? One bag, two bags, five bags, to different servants? Why not all the same?
- Who is the master in the story? Who are the slaves? What does the money mean?

Matthew 25:16-18. One slave had five bags of money. Quickly, he went and used the money in business. He earned 5 more bags of money. The same, one slave had two bags of money. He went and used the money for business. He earned two more bags of money. One slave had one bag of money. He dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

- What did two of the slaves do with the money? Was their work successful? What happened?
- What did the third slave do with his bag of money? Did that earn any more money?

Matthew 25:19-23. The master was gone a long time. Then he came home. He called the slaves and asked what they did with his money. The one slave who had five bags of money stood up. He said, "Master, you trusted me with five bags of money. Look, I earned five more bags!" The master told him, "You did well. You were good and faithful with a few things. I will give you control over many things. Come and celebrate with me!" The one slave who had two bags of money stood up. He said, "Master, you trusted me with two bags of money. Look, I earned two more bags!" The master said, "You did well. You were good and faithful with a few things. I will give you control over many things. Come and celebrate with me!"

- The master came back. What did he want now?

- Two of the slaves used the money to earn more money. How did the master reward them for that?
- God gives us many gifts. Who do those gifts belong to, us or God? (Think about the slaves and the money – who did the money belong to?)
- What gifts does God give us? How does God want us to use those gifts?

Matthew 25:24-25. One slave had one bag of money. He said, “Master, I know you are very strict. You did not plant a field, but you still harvest from that field. If you didn’t plant, doesn’t matter, you still pick the fruit there. I was afraid. I hid the money in the ground. Look, here is your bag of money.”

- The other two slaves used the money to make more money. What did this slave do with his money?
- Do we sometimes “hide” our gifts? How can we use them more for God?

Matthew 25:26-30. The master answered, “You are a wicked, lazy slave! You knew I didn’t plant a field, but I still harvest. You knew I didn’t plant, but I still gather fruit. Then you should know better! You should put my money in the bank. Then I get my money with interest.” The master told other slaves, “Take away his money. Give his money to the slave with ten bags. Everyone who has something, I will give him more. He will have much. But for the one who has nothing, I will take away every little thing he has. Throw that worthless slave out in the darkness. In that place he will cry and grind his teeth.”

- The slave didn’t want to take chances with the money. He was afraid. What did the master say he should have done with the money?
- What did the master do with the one bag of money? Who got it?
- What happened to the slave who had the one bag?
- How should we live with what God gives us? Afraid? Or bold, willing to take risks? Think about what it means to use God’s gifts boldly.